

HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, Lee Lane, Horwich on Thursday 24 June 2014 commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: R. Silvester (in the Chair), K. Denton, K. Helsby, J. Kellett, L. McCartin, K. McKeon, C. Root, J. Silvester, K. Thomson, S. Rock, K. Ramamurthy
Admin Assistant H. Fairclough
12 Members of the Public and 3 from the Press

CHAIRPERSON TO OUTLINE FIRE SAFETY EVACUATION PROCEDURE:

TC 3159 Councillor R. Silvester outlined the procedure

TO SUBMIT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPT THE REASONS:

TC 3160 Apologies received from Councillor Morley who was away and Councillor L. Rock due to ill health.

TO REMIND MEMBERS TO MAKE A DECLARATION CONCERNING ANY MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING OF WHICH THEY HAVE AN INTEREST:

TC 3161 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT MAY PUT QUESTIONS OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. MAXIMUM PERIOD 15 MINUTES:

Resolved to move out of Committee

TC 3162 A member of the public made several comments about the Council as a whole. Concern was expressed that the Web Site was not up-to-date, with items taking several weeks to appear. Meetings such as the one at the Leisure Centre were not advertised by the Council. Also additional forms of communication, such as Face book and Twitter could be utilised.

A query was raised as to why the Draft Levy had not been brought in, it having been discussed a while ago and it was claimed that as a result Horwich would miss out on the Loco Works revenue. A comment was made about the political make up of the Council with regard to investment from the European Union with a claim that other Councils such as Chorley are receiving funding from this source. It was felt that too much time was being spent on planning matters when the Town Council did not make the final decision and that all Councillors should do their best for Horwich and look at Chorley as a good example.

Resolved to move back into Committee

Chair thanked the member of the public for the interesting points raised which would require more detailed discussion.

It was pointed out that there is separate sub-committee for Marketing and Promotion and points raised about the website will be brought to its' attention and that Council is looking at upgrading all its communication methods. A new member of staff will shortly be appointed and charged with promoting both the Council and the Resource Centre. There is a newsletter being distributed throughout Horwich and the Council has agreed to look into updating the web site.

With regard to the Community Levy, this was a matter for Bolton Council as the unitary authority and not within the control of Horwich Town Council.

It was noted that Horwich is proud to have retained a lot of its public buildings.

On the matter of European funding it was pointed out that Horwich is a Town Council within a District Council and Chorley is a District Council on its own and while the powers that Horwich Town Council has are exercised to the best, but all monies are channelled through either Bolton or Greater Manchester. A lot of funding is coming to Horwich in the future, i.e. the Loco Works and Middlebrook as two examples and pre 1974 funding was received from investment in Manchester Airport.

The Council does listen and does its utmost to get what is best for Horwich, although it should be remembered that all Town Council positions are voluntary and Members do their very best to attend most community events organised, regardless of political views.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014

TC 3163 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 19th June 2014.

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014

TC 3164 Resolved unanimously to note the minutes of the meeting of the planning committee held on 19th June 2014.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014

TC 3165 Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes and recommendations of the grants to voluntary organisations sub

committee held on 19th June 2014 and also to congratulate the Council on the funds being directed to good causes.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – SEE ATTACHED LIST

TC 3166 Resolved unanimously to approve the accounts for payment as presented and amounting to £7,878.36

TO CONFIRM THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AS 21 AUGUST 2014

TC 3167 Resolved unanimously to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as 21st August 2014.

Councillor Silvester declared the meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

Chairperson.....Date.....